



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ROBERT E. ARBOGAST ET AL

SERIAL NO.: 09/131,915

EXAMINER:

FILED: AUGUST 10, 1998

FOR: GEL AND CUSHIONING DEVICES

4.4. 1773

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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**SIR:**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

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## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel ~~Claims~~ 1-21 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 22-51 as follows.

22. An open-ended annular sleeve configured to receive a limb of a wearer and comprising an inside, an outside, a first open end, a second open end, and an intermediate portion provided between said first open end and said second open end, said annular sleeve comprising a foamed or non-foamed gel composition having a Shore 00 durometer of from 100 and comprising a block copolymer and, up to 90% by weight of mineral oil based on total weight of block copolymer and oil.

23. The sleeve as claimed in Claim 22, wherein said block copolymer is selected from the group consisting of styrene-ethylene/propylene, styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene

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